(c) Wholesale price indices are released on weekly basis and consumer price indices on monthly basis. Latest information on consumer price indices is available for February, 1992. Sector-wise increase in wholesale price index since February 29, 1992 are as follows:

(per cent)

Sector	Change in WPI since Feb. 29, 1992 upto 28th March, 1992
All commodities . .	0.6
Primary articles . .	=0.8
Fuel, Power Light & Lubricants . .	1.6
Manufactured products . . .	1.2

(d) The steps taken/proposed to keep the prices under check include: strict fiscal discipline through reduction in fiscal deficit; growth of money supply and bank credit against price-sensitive essential commodities; more effective management of supply and demand of essential/sensitive commodities; and strict action against hoarders and profiteers. The process of macro-economic stabilisation and economic reforms began during 1991-92 and strengthened in the 1992-93 budget proposals is expected to help boost production and ensure near normal availability of essential goods in the market which will keep the prices under check.

Interest on outstanding External Debt

139. MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state the amount of interest being paid for the outstanding external debt at present?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN! THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR): The amount of interest to be pai during the year 1991-92 is estimate to be Rs. 5367 crores.

Criminal charges against Collector o Customs, Bombay

140. SHRI VIREN J. SHAH:

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN:

Will the Minister of FINANCE b< pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Collector of Customs at Bombay Air port was recently arrested by the police on charges of molestation and harassment, made by a lady proba tioner from Andhra Pradesh;

(b) if so, what are the details of the charges made against the Collector of Customs;

(c) what action Government have taken against the said officer; and

(d) what steps Government have taken to safeguard the honour and dignity of the lady officers who are employed and posted at various places?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR): (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. A complaint of alleged misbehaviour on the part of the then Collector of Customs, Sahar Airport, Bombay was received from a lady probationer of the Indian Customs and Central Excise Service belonging to Andhra Pradesh, on 24-3-92. The officer was placed under suspension on 26-3-1992. On a criminal complaint filed by the lady probationer with the police authorities at Bombay, the officer was arrested by the Police on 2-4-92 and was released on bail. All possible steps are taken to safeguard the honour and dignity of lady officers.